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NEW PRO-NAZI ORGANIZATION IN PHILADELPHIA

Leaders Have Police Records; Maintain Close
Contact with Agents of Third Reich

The Hour learns that a fascist organization, closely associated with official Nazi propaganda agencies and headed by professional anti-Semites with police records, has recently begun operations in Philadelphia, Pa. The name of the organization is American Christian League. Its headquarters are located at Room 705, Broad Street Station Building, 16th and Filbert Streets, Philadelphia.

The League was incorporated in March, 1941, as a "non-profit corporation" by decree of the Common Pleas Court of Delaware County, Pa. The articles of incorporation state that the purposes of the League are:

"... to promote and foster social and business relations according to Christian ideals in business, industrial, commercial and professional spheres; to assist worthy young Christians by gifts and loans; ... to print and publish literature and periodicals and distribute the same; to preserve Christian ideals generally and in particular in domestic and business relations; to assure and promote the safety and security of the American Christian home and to acquire and hold property."

The incorporation papers were entered by James G. Wood, James A. Sweeney, John A. Wasson, Leo P. Moylan and Charles A. Moylan.

Aims and Leadership of League

The actual purpose of the American Christian League is to promote pro-Nazi propaganda in the eastern states and to build an organization of a stormtroop character. Three of the incorporators of the League have police records. James Wood was arrested on October 17, 1927, charged with theft of an automobile. He was again arrested on February 3, 1928, this time on charges of entering and stealing. Leo Moylan was arrested

on August 8, 1923 and December 29, 1928; in both cases for violations of liquor statutes. Charles Moylan has a record of three arrests, the last of which was on charges of setting up and abetting an illegal lottery.

The Moylan brothers, who are the real leaders of the League, formerly published Equalizer, a notorious anti-Semitic magazine. For some time they have maintained intimate contacts with the German-American Bund and other anti-democratic groups. After the League was organized, Charles Moylan invited Theodore E. Martin, well-known Bundist and vice-president of the Deutschhorst Country Club, to become an executive in that organization. The Hour is in possession of a photostatic copy of the letter Martin wrote in answer to this invitation. Martin states that he is in "full accord" with the purposes of the League but adds:

"However, I have decided to remain an outsider for the following reasons:

"In the first place I do not think it advisable for any organization to include even former members of the much maligned German-American Bund, of which I was an active member until forced to resign.

"Secondly I deem it best for any citizen of German birth to take his place on the sidelines just now and like it.

"Let me assure you however of my best wishes for your success and permit me to forward your application blanks to such friends who I know to be Gentile and trustworthy."

The Moylan brothers are not the only ones in the League associated with Nazi propaganda agents. A number of other members have been keeping in close touch with and receiving assignments from the German Library of Information.

In view of the nature of its activities and character of its leadership and membership, the American Christian League should be promptly investigated by state and federal authorities.

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COUGHLIN AND NAZIS VS. THE CHURCH

In his eagerness to support the Nazi claim that the invasion of Russia is a Holy Crusade, Father Charles E. Coughlin rushed into print with an article in the July 7 issue of Social Justice describing the German Church's absolute endorsement of the Third Reich and its war efforts. The

Royal Oak priest enthusiastically stated that German Bishops are "now united in their approval and support of Germany's war on Russia," and he added:

"The fact is that the German Catholic bishops are unanimous in their statement that Germany's war on Russia is a battle for Christianity."

Lest there be any doubt in the minds of his readers about Nazi qualifications to conduct a religious war, Father Coughlin carefully listed the "Christian" aspects of Der Fuehrer's regime:

"Hitler has been opposed to the international godless Jew from the beginning. And from the beginning of this conflict, the international godless Jew dominated Soviet Russia, Britain and the United States. ... It is true that Hitler has persecuted Jews and Christians. Yet he has killed none; he has not banned religion. ... Aside from the military aspects involved in the Russo-German war, Hitler has won a great victory in the minds of Christians throughout the world ..."

German Bishops Disagree with Coughlin

On the very day that this issue of Social Justice appeared on the streets, the press throughout the country featured an Associated Press dispatch, which the New York Times headlined: "Catholic Bishops in Germany Assail Nazis for Church Policy in First Protest Since War." The AP story reported that the Bishops of Greater Germany had appealed to Catholics to stand fast in their faith at a time when "existence or non-existence of Christianity" in Germany was at stake. A pastoral letter written by the German Bishops pointed out that the policies of the Third Reich constituted a grave menace to the Church, and that Nazi ideologists were offering the German people a specious choice between "Christ and the Fatherland."

Bishop Hurley on Nazis

Further evidence of the attitude of the Catholic clergy toward the "Christian" aims of Nazi Germany came in the United States in a speech delivered by Bishop Joseph B. Hurley of the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Augustine, Fla. In his address, "Papal Pronouncements and American Foreign Policy," which was broadcast over the Columbia network, Bishop Hurley ridiculed the idea that Hitler's attack upon the Soviet Union represented a "holy crusade against Communism." The Bishop declared that the Nazis remain the No. 1 enemy of America.

In this connection, it is worth recalling an address delivered by Bishop Hurley on April 30 at the Florida State Convention of the National Council of Catholic Women. At that time the Bishop stated:

"Communism is still our enemy. But I am also convinced that, in point of urgency if not in point of teaching, Communism has now ceded its primacy to National Socialism."

... today the first enemy of our humanity -- killer of our priests, the despoiler of our temples, the foe of all we love both as Americans and as Catholics -- is the Nazi."

Coughlin-Goebbels Crusade

It is apparent that when Father Coughlin defines the Nazi war on the Soviets as a Holy Crusade, he is not speaking for the Church. He is merely echoing the propaganda blasts of Dr. Paul Joseph Goebbels.

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SPY MAX BLANK AND WESTERMANN BOOK SHOP

The Hour is reliably informed that Max Blank, arrested on June 29, by the Federal Bureau of Investigation on charges of espionage, made his headquarters at Westermann Book Shop at 20 West 48th Street, New York City, and used this store as a front for carrying on negotiations with other agents of the Third Reich.

In our March 15 issue we reported that Westermann Book Shop was distributing Nazi propaganda material. Shortly after our disclosure of this fact, all Third Reich propaganda disappeared from the display shelves of the Westermann Book Shop. The store grew suddenly discreet in its promoting of Hitler's cause. Those requesting the Weckruf and other such items had to be known to the Westermann salesman before they could obtain the desired articles. When these individuals were satisfactorily identified, the salesman would scurry into a back room and return with the material requested.

Blank and U. S. Appeasers

While parading as "salesman" at the Westermann Book Shop, Max Blank did not limit his activities to his dealings with agents of the Third Reich. He was closely associated with prominent members of the appeasement movement in the United States. Among these was Verne Marshall. Blank was an ardent supporter of the No Foreign War Committee and helped build its membership. Later, when the Committee folded up, Blank shifted his allegiance to the America First Committee.

When Max Blank was arrested, he admitted he had been employed by the German Library of Information; but he was reluctant to discuss his work at the Westermann Book Shop.

The Hour wonders what mysterious role has been assigned to the Westermann Book Shop, in addition to promoting Nazi propaganda.

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